

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Regular Session on August 24, 2011 in the Island County Commissioner's Hearing Room at 1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Conard at 9:03 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/documents/2011/2011COG.html>

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Paul Samuelson, Mayor, City of Langley
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

Also Present: Marilyn Abrahamson, FAIRS (Freeland Advocates for Informed, Responsible Solutions)
Keith Higman, Island County Public Health
Joe Hillers, Island County Marine Resources Committee
Jeff Lauderdale, Coupeville resident
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey Island
Robert Peterson, Island County Planning and Community Development
Rex Porter, Island County Marine Resources Committee
Rufus R. Rose, Old Goats
Nancy Waddell, EcoNet Whidbey

Chair Conard stated that Morgan Schneider, Puget Sound Partnership would be calling in rather making an appearance; otherwise there was no change in the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Samuelson moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 27, 2011. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded. By unanimous motion the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 27, 2011 were approved.

APPROVAL OF SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION VOUCHER

Chair Conard distributed a copy of the invoice from Britt Conn for her services from July 26, 2011 – August 22, 2011, in the amount of \$831.25.

Mayor Samuelson moved and Commissioner Homola seconded a motion to approve payment of the voucher. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION (LIO) and ACTION PLAN UPDATE - MORGAN SCHNEIDLER AND KEITH HIGMAN

Once the telephone connection was made with Morgan Schneider she gave her update. She stated that the Puget Sound Partnership is in the process of updating the action agenda focusing on regional strategies and updating the local profiles created in 2008. She is the designated fiscal agent and as so is create the scope of work for grant funding to support the LIO.

Commission Gordon asked Schneider if there was a port or industry representative on the technical advisory group. Schneider stated they are hoping that that emphasis would be brought in through the watershed groups like the MRC. Commissioner Weber stated that it had been suggested that the Ports have a seat on that committee. Chair Conard stated that the policy committee structure had previously been approved by the COG. Further discussion centered on port or industry representation on the Technical Advisory group.

Commissioner Price Johnson moved that the Port Districts fill the business seat on the Technical Advisory Group. Mayor Samuelson seconded. Discussion centered on the process of choosing the person to fill the seat. Price Johnson modified her motion to make it an interim appointment that they then advance to the LIO for formal appointment. Further discussion revealed that this motion should come before the LIO rather than the COG. The motion was withdrawn.

There was consensus that the Port Districts will choose someone to attend the Technical Advisory group on an interim basis and that that person will attend their meeting on Monday, August 29, 2011.

Schneider noted that several state agencies, using EPA funds, have put forth RFPs that will implement the action agenda. Some of these RFP's give additional points to proposals that have been supported by their LIO. Pre-proposals for these RFP's are due mid September.

Higman, a member of the Technical Advisory group, stated that they have met a couple of times and discussed these grant opportunities which require projects to be shovel ready as well as being consistent with the action agenda for the Whidbey Basin. The Technical Advisory group would like the COG, as one half of the LIO, for the authority to move pre-proposals forward. Representatives from the Tribes on the Technical Advisory group are making this same request to the Tribes.

Mayor Slowik moved that the COG support the pre-proposal process. Price Johnson seconded. Discussion centered on the format needed to show support which was determined to be a letter of support from the LIO. Schneider volunteered to contact the Tribes to confirm their support. Commissioner Homola, as interim Chair of the LIO can sign the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC) UPDATE – REX PORTER AND JOE HILLERS

Rex Porter, Part-time Executive Director of the MRC and Dr. Joe Hillers, Agriculture Representative on MRC gave the update. Porter gave a short summary of the MRC and distributed a handout describing the 2011 – 2013 Proposal Building Process (copy attached as Exhibit A). The MRC has a biennial budget period which began on July 1, 2011. Initially federally funded through NOAA for the last ten years through the Northwest Straits Commission, it was not funded in this biennium. Currently funded by “swept up” NOAA funds, they just learned that the EPA will provide \$55,000 to fund them through June 30, 2012. Porter described the committee members and project activity components. Dr. Hillers described the Nearshore Phytoremediation Project and Rex Porter spoke about the Cornet Bay Restoration Project. Both men spoke to the quality of the volunteer efforts supporting the MRC and the funding leverage ratio that the MRC achieves. COG members stated their appreciation for this committee.

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

Price Johnson stated that the Joint Administration Board (JAB) interlocal draft had been sent to legal for review where they found a few inconsistencies in that the chairmanship has to be held by an elected official and the extra seat for the EDC is not called out in the RCW so that position could not be a voting member. Slowik stated his legal department too had found inconsistencies. Price Johnson will bring the draft back to JAB for consideration and provide it to the COG prior to the next meeting.


SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER COG MEETING

The dates for the September 28 meeting and October 26 meetings were confirmed. Chair Conard proposed the agenda for September: update from Sherrye Wyatt on Island County tourism promotion efforts and two percent hotel-motel tax; review of revised JAB draft provisions; Economic Development Council update; and report from the LIO TAG, for October: update from Puget Sound Energy on their storm planning and their five year level of service update; and discussion of legislative priorities. After discussion about meeting time, Conard confirmed a joint RTPPO meeting with Skagit County which will be held on October 26, 2011 at 1:00 in Mount Vernon.

Chair Conard will contact our legislators about meeting with the COG in November or December taking into consideration the holidays in both months as well as the County Commissioners’ meeting schedule. It was proposed to schedule the COG meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. A COG meeting on November 9, 2011 or December 14, 2011 was suggested.

As there was no further business, Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2011.


APPROVED